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Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population

Programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2003: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report reviews the progress achieved by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat in implementing its programme of work in the field of population in 2003. It covers the activities of the Population Division dealing with the analysis of fertility, mortality and migration; world population estimates and projections; population policies and population ageing; population and development; monitoring, coordination and dissemination of population information; and technical cooperation in population. A summary of the major accomplishments of the Population Division is presented in chapter I of the report. Chapter II provides highlights of the major activities of the Population Division: technical publications, wall charts, expert meetings, training, and dissemination of results, including through the Internet.

The Commission may wish to take note of this report.

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Introduction

1. The subprogramme in population in the United Nations Secretariat falls under the responsibility of the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The programme of work for the biennium 2002-2003 was formulated on the basis of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005. The programme of work takes into account the recommendations of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly on key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and other relevant international conferences.

2. As described in the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005,[1] the objective of the subprogramme in population is to increase understanding of the nature of demographic phenomena, in particular the interrelationships between population and development. The Commission on Population and Development provides intergovernmental guidance to the subprogramme.

3. Specifically, the expected accomplishments for the subprogramme in population, as presented in the programme budget for 2002-2003,[2] are:

(a) Increased ability of Member States to formulate national population and related policies and programmes;

(b) Better understanding and awareness by Member States and civil society, including NGOs of emerging issues in the field of population and development;

(c) Improved and timely access by Governments and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to the United Nations research findings in the field of population and development, including via the Internet;

(d) Enhanced ability of Member States to achieve the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and of the outcome of the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly.

4. The Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs continued to collaborate closely with agencies, funds, programmes and other bodies of the United Nations system in the implementation of the programme of work and in connection with the follow-up activities to the International Conference on Population and Development. United Nations missions, national Government offices, United Nations offices, researchers and the public regularly consult the Population Division regarding data, information and analyses of population and development issues.

5. The present report deals with the research and technical cooperation work and information activities carried out by the Population Division during 2003. A summary of the major accomplishments of the Population Division within the context of results-based budgeting is presented in Chapter I. Chapter II provides a substantive summary of the activities and outputs of the Population Division: technical publications, wall charts, expert meetings, training, and dissemination of results, including through the Internet.

I. Programme accomplishments in 2003

6. One of the major goals of the Population Division has been to encourage Member States to consider population variables in development planning. As shown in *National Population Policies, 2003*, an increasing number of Governments, particularly in less developed regions, are taking into consideration the role of demographic variables in socio-economic development. For example, in 2003, about two thirds of the countries in the less developed regions indicated that the current level of fertility was unsatisfactory, a rise from 55 per cent in 1976.

7. The Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development identifies population growth as an important element in the development process and stresses that, in order to achieve an improved quality of life for present and future generations, it is important to facilitate the transition towards low birth and death rates, and hence to slower population growth. Publications of the Population Division, particularly *World Population Prospects: The 2002 Revision* and *National Population Policies, 2003*, have played a key role in monitoring the implementation of the Programme of Action. The number of countries with high levels of fertility (that is, above five children per woman), most of which are in Africa, declined from 55 in 1990-1995 to 34 in 2000-2005. Nonetheless, rapid population growth remains a concern for more than half the Governments in developing countries. Rising contraceptive use among couples, as documented in the Population Division's *World Contraceptive Use* wall chart, indicates that access to family planning continues to increase. However, many births are still unwanted or mistimed, and modern family planning methods remain unavailable to large numbers of couples.

8. The activities of the Population Division are enhancing the understanding of approaches to combating the HIV/AIDS epidemic, which has been identified as the population policy issue of highest concern in the world. The Division conducted a Workshop on HIV/AIDS and Adult Mortality in Developing Countries at United Nations Headquarters from 8 to 13 September 2003, for specialists from the hardest-hit African countries. In a post-workshop evaluation survey, the participants reported increased understanding on how to apply demographic tools to improve the quality of statistics, and many planned to work to increase cooperation among the various bodies involved in AIDS-related activities in their countries. Participants stressed, as an important outcome of the workshop, the possibility of networking with colleagues from other countries and their intention to continue sharing information and experiences via the Internet. The Division also strives to make users of demographic statistics aware of the consequences of the AIDS epidemic through such information as projections of the number of excess deaths due to AIDS and their demographic impact ("The impact of HIV/AIDS on mortality", UN/POP/MORT/2003/14, for example), the impact of the epidemic on sectors of society (*The Impact of AIDS*[3] and "The HIV/AIDS epidemic and its social and economic implications", UN/POP/MORT/2003/12) and behavioural aspects of the AIDS epidemic (*HIV/AIDS: Awareness and Behaviour*)[4].

9. The results of the research and analysis carried out by the Population Division reach a very wide audience, through its publications, the Internet, public presentations and press interactions. Notable among these are the Division's publications concerning global population estimates and projections and population ageing. The findings from the Division's newly developed long-range population

projections (*World Population in 2300*) have appeared in over 60 newspapers internationally and the staff of the Division have given press interviews in English, French, German and Spanish. Similarly, in April 2003, AARP, a large international non-governmental organization, added the Division's *World Population Ageing 2002* wall chart to its database of key information resources on ageing from around the world.

10. The influence of these activities is reflected in the unsolicited letters of appreciation received by the Division, the more than 30,000 Google citations of the United Nations Population Division/Department of Economic and Social Affairs, countless references to the work of the Division in scholarly papers and the popular press, and thousands of visits to the Division web site. In summary, population information is becoming more easily accessible to a broad audience, including those who may never have been aware of the existence and ease of use of such population information.

II. Highlights of major activities

A. Fertility and family planning

11. The Population Division has issued *World Fertility Report 2003*. The report presents, in a standard format, data on fertility, nuptiality, contraceptive use and national policies with respect to fertility and family planning for 194 countries and areas of the world. For each country profile, 43 indicators are presented for two dates: the most recent available data and benchmark data centred on 1970. As the total fertility rate is the most widely used indicator of fertility, a time series of data from different sources is presented for each country in graphic form. The graphs also depict estimates of total fertility from *World Population Prospects: The 2002 Revision*. Work is in progress on a fertility database which will complement the *World Fertility Report 2003*. All data from the *Report* are included in the database.

12. A report entitled *Levels and Trends of Contraceptive Use as Assessed in 2002* was issued in early 2004. The report shows that world contraceptive prevalence — the percentage of couples where the woman is of reproductive age and who are currently using contraception — is estimated to have reached 63 per cent in 2000, up from a level of 54 per cent in 1990. The report also shows that contraceptive use is dominated by modern methods, which account for 90 per cent of use worldwide. Female sterilization, intrauterine devices and the oral pill are the three most used methods in the world. The male condom is the fourth most widely used contraceptive. The report provides evidence that government support for methods of contraception increased steadily during the last quarter of the twentieth century. By 2001, 92 per cent of all countries supported family-planning programmes and contraceptives, either directly (75 per cent) through government facilities, or indirectly (17 per cent) through support of non-governmental activities such as those operated by family planning associations.

13. The wall chart *World Contraceptive Use 2003* was issued in early 2004. The chart presents the most recent contraceptive prevalence data available for each country as of 30 September 2003. The prevalence data are presented by method of contraception. The wall chart also presents rates of annual increases in contraceptive use between 1990 and 2000 as well as estimates of unmet need for contraception for

countries where data are available. In addition to the wall chart, a database entitled *World Contraceptive Use 2003* was also issued in early 2004. The database includes in electronic form the most recent contraceptive prevalence data presented in the above wall chart and, for as many countries as possible, trends in contraceptive prevalence for the period 1990-2002.

14. The Population Division has compiled a database on marital status by age and sex from over 900 population censuses and demographic surveys to show the changes in the timing and prevalence of marriage since the 1960s. An ongoing study shows that marriage is still the preferred status in most parts of the world. Marriage prevalence, described in terms of the percentage of men and women who have married at least once by age 45-49, is as high in the more developed regions as in the less developed regions. Ninety per cent of women aged 45-49 have been married at some point in their lives in both the more developed and the less developed regions. Among men aged 45-49, 91 per cent in the more developed regions and 86 per cent in the less developed regions have been married. The length of time spent in marriage has undergone dramatic changes during the past 30 years, mainly because of steep increases in age at marriage in many areas of the world and also because of increases in the incidence of divorce and separation. The average age at marriage among women has increased from 21.4 years in 1970 to 25.5 years in 2000.

B. Mortality and health

15. The Population Division organized a Workshop on HIV/AIDS and Adult Mortality in Developing Countries which was held at United Nations Headquarters from 8 to 13 September 2003. The workshop represented a unique combination of a technical meeting and a training activity for African specialists working in the area of HIV/AIDS from countries most affected by the epidemic. The objectives of this training were to give African specialists an understanding of the broad demographic aspects of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and to make them aware of the importance of effectively communicating research results on population and HIV/AIDS. The workshop focused on presentations by experts and active discussions between trainees and experts on technical and measurement aspects of HIV/AIDS and adult mortality. It also included discussions on ways to improve communication, especially through the media, and discussions on the social and economic effects of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, in conjunction with related policies and programmes. The last two days of the workshop were devoted to a discussion of opportunities and constraints in the use of demographic information as an advocacy tool in the countries represented. Relevant agencies, funds and programmes, including the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Health Organization, experts from universities and research centres, as well as United Nations correspondents and representatives of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, participated in the workshop. All the papers were made available on the Population Division web site and the full report of the workshop will be published and be made available on the web site.

16. Work has continued on the preparation of the report on infant and child mortality. The report will present, for each country, information on sources of data, estimates for both sexes combined, estimates specific to males and females, a

graphical illustration of trends and, where applicable, the output from the application of indirect methods.

C. International migration

17. The Population Division organized the Second Coordination Meeting on International Migration on 15 and 16 October 2003. The meeting brought together participants from offices and agencies in the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and other international and regional organizations active in the area of international migration. The second coordination meeting consisted of three substantive sessions devoted respectively to: a review of recent debates on international migration at the United Nations Secretariat; a discussion of selected current issues of international migration; and exchanges of information among participating organizations on their recent activities related to international migration. The second session focused on three key issues: workers' remittances; undocumented migration, with special attention to human trafficking; and international migration and security. All material relating to the meeting was made available on the United Nations Population Division web site and the full report of the meeting, including conclusions reached by the participants, will be made available on the Division's web site and issued as a working paper.

18. For its consideration of agenda item 93 (c), entitled "International migration and development", the Division prepared and submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session the report of the Secretary-General on the topic.[7] The report summarizes activities relating to international migration and development carried out by relevant organizations within and outside the United Nations system and discusses the actual and potential mechanisms within the United Nations system for addressing the issues related to international migration and development. The General Assembly, in its resolution 56/203 of 21 December 2001, had requested the Secretary-General to solicit, one additional time, the views of Member States regarding the possibility of convening an international conference on international migration and development. By early July 2003, responses had been received from 46 Member States and one non-member State, representing 24 per cent of all United Nations Member States. The views expressed by the 47 Governments who responded were diverse, with 25 Member States favouring the convening of a conference and 22 expressing reservations about the proposal. Among the 25 Governments that favoured holding a United Nations conference, the majority considered that it should be of a technical and analytical nature. Most of the 22 Governments that did not favour the holding of a conference nevertheless underscored the importance of international migration and development. However, many of them considered that existing mechanisms, such as the Commission on Population and Development or a special session of the General Assembly, could provide appropriate forums for discussion of the issue.

D. Internal migration

19. The Population Division has completed work on the report entitled "Patterns and characteristics of internal migration in developing countries: evidence from DHS". The report presents patterns of internal migration and selected characteristics of migrants in less developed regions, based on data from the Demographic and Health Surveys. Despite their focus on reproductive health issues, DHS data contain

the information required to identify migrants and study residential transitions. The study presents evidence from 53 developing countries, many of them in Africa, where data on internal migration are most limited. Results of the analysis suggest that internal migration is generally higher in Africa than in Asia or in Latin America and the Caribbean. The data also show differences by sex in internal migration rates and patterns. While rural-rural migration is prevalent among women in most countries, urban-urban migration tends to prevail among men. Overall, migrant men and women tend to be more literate and educated than non-migrants in many African and most Asian countries, but the opposite is observed in Latin America, particularly among women. The report will be published as a working paper and has been made available on the web site of the Population Division.

E. World population projections

20. The Population Division completed the *2002 Revision* of its biennial world population estimates and projections to the year 2050. The results of the *2002 Revision* are contained in three volumes of publications (vol. I: Comprehensive Tables; vol. II: Sex and Age Distribution of Populations; and vol. III: Analytical Report), in a wall chart, and on a CD-ROM. In addition, the results have been issued on the Population Division web site (www.unpopulation.org), including as a user-friendly database for retrieving or downloading tables, and through a press release.

21. According to the *2002 Revision*, despite projected lower fertility levels and increased mortality risks to which some populations will be subjected, particularly due to HIV/AIDS, world population is expected to increase by 2.6 billion people, from 6.3 billion in 2003 to 8.9 billion in 2050. World population is currently growing at a rate of 1.2 per cent annually, implying a net addition of 77 million people per year. Six countries account for half of that annual increment: India for 21 per cent; China, 12 per cent; Pakistan, 5 per cent; and Bangladesh, Nigeria and the United States of America for 4 per cent each.

22. The Population Division also completed a new set of long-range projections, greatly extending the projection horizon of the *2002 Revision*. The previous long-range population projections had been published in 2000 as an extension to the *1998 Revision*. The new long-range projections were ground-breaking in two respects: they extended the time horizon to 2300 (the previous long-range projections were to 2150) and they were carried out by country (previously, the long-range projections had been available by continents only). According to the medium-range scenario described in these projections (in which world fertility levels will eventually stabilize at around two children per woman), world population will rise from the current 6.3 billion to around 9 billion in 2300. However, even small variations in fertility levels will have enormous impacts in the long term. As little as one quarter of a child under the two-child norm, or one quarter of a child above the norm will result in a world population ranging from 2.3 billion (low variant) to 36.4 billion (high variant) in 2300. Under another scenario (constant scenario), undertaken for the sake of illustration, if fertility levels remain unchanged at today's levels, world population would rise to 244 billion in 2150 and 134 trillion in 2300, clearly indicating that current levels of high fertility cannot continue indefinitely. These new long-range population projections show a smaller future population size (9 billion people) than previous United Nations long-range projections (10-12 billion). This is primarily due to the recent fertility declines throughout the developing world

and the expectation that future fertility trends in the developing countries will follow the path experienced by the developed countries.

23. The Population Division has completed the *2003 Revision* of World Urbanization Prospects and the first results have been issued as a working paper. In addition, results have been made available through two data sets on diskette: Urban and Rural Areas, 1950-2030 and Urban Agglomerations, 1950-2015, through the Division's online database and a press release. The full report will be issued later in 2004 as a sales publication. In addition, the results will be available in two wall charts, *Urban and Rural Areas 2003* and *Urban Agglomerations 2003*. The Population Division continues to work in close collaboration with the Demographic and Social Statistics Branch of the Statistics Division to expand the collection of relevant information on urban and city populations from countries.

F. Population policies

24. *National Population Policies 2003* was completed and will be published during 2004. The publication contains the most comprehensive and up-to-date information available on the population policy situation for all States Members of the United Nations as well as non-member States. Revised and updated on a biennial basis, the publication provides an overview of population policies and dynamics at mid-decade for the 1970s, 1980s, 1990s and for 2003. Included in the publication is information on national population policies in relation to population growth and age structure, fertility and family planning, health and mortality, international migration and spatial distribution. The study revealed that the most significant demographic concern in the world among Governments is HIV/AIDS. Other major concerns include low fertility and population ageing in developed countries and rapid population growth, and infant, child and maternal mortality in developing countries. The publication will be issued in three formats: a hard-copy version, a CD-ROM and a web-based downloadable version.

25. In 2003, a study on *Fertility, contraception and population policies* was finalized and issued as a working paper.[7] The results of the study revealed that reproductive behaviour, once viewed as a private matter outside the purview of Government action, has become widely accepted as a major concern of Governments. By 2001, virtually all Governments were providing support either directly or indirectly for contraceptive methods. Moreover, the United Nations was instrumental in promoting the international acceptance of family planning and in situating family planning programmes within the wider framework of reproductive health and reproductive rights.

26. A study on HIV/AIDS policies, *National responses to HIV/AIDS: a review of progress*, was prepared and presented at the United Nations Workshop on HIV/AIDS and Adult Mortality in Developing Countries (8-13 September 2003) (see para. 15). In providing a broad overview of national responses to the AIDS epidemic, the study found that from a slow policy response in the early 1980s when the emerging epidemic was limited to high-risk groups in a few countries, national HIV/AIDS policies have now become nearly universal. Furthermore, policies and programmes are increasingly addressing HIV/AIDS as a development challenge, requiring a multidimensional national response. The study showed that a key constraint to Governments' efforts to respond to the AIDS epidemic is the wide range of policies

and programmes which are essential for an effective response. Developing countries especially face difficult choices in striking the right balance between prevention, treatment and care.

27. The *United Nations Ninth Inquiry among Governments on Population and Development* was finalized and sent to all permanent missions to the United Nations in New York in 2003. Each round of the *Inquiry*, of which there have been eight previous rounds, has consisted of a detailed request for information sent to all Member and non-member States. The *Inquiry* is available in the six official languages. For the first time, the quinquennial *Inquiry* is being provided in a user-friendly electronic format as a computer diskette. The missions were requested to return the completed *Inquiry* by 31 January 2004. During 2004, the responses to the *Inquiry* will be analysed and the results issued later as a sales publication.

28. Issues related to population and security will be the focus of an expert group meeting to be organized by the Population Division and held in June 2004. The meeting will explore some of the myriad problems relating to population and security, concerning, inter alia, natural resources, the environment, HIV/AIDS, poverty, food, education and national defence, currently confronting many Governments.

G. Population ageing

29. A report on living arrangements of older persons around the world has been issued as a working paper and is being finalized for formal publication. Using census and survey data, the study analyses and compares patterns, trends and social and economic correlates of living arrangements of people 60 years or older for more than 130 countries. Aspects of living arrangements examined include residence with family members (particularly children and grandchildren), solitary living and the institutionalization of older persons. Newly released data from a special survey on older persons in seven Latin American and Caribbean countries made it possible to incorporate factors such as number of living children and the flow of informal support transfers, information that is usually not available from other data sources.

30. According to the findings of the study, in developed countries, on average a majority of older persons live alone or with a spouse only, while in most developing countries a large majority live with children or other relatives. Nonetheless, there is a worldwide trend for older persons to live alone, with neither spouse nor others. This trend is most pronounced in the more developed countries, but is seen in many less developed countries as well. There is wide variation among countries in the proportion of persons aged 60 or over living alone, ranging from 1 or 2 per cent in some African and Asian countries (such as Bahrain, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Comoros, Guinea and Senegal) to over one third in some European countries (including the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland). Solitary living is more common in countries with higher income and education, and where older persons have fewer children available to live with. Nonetheless, the study shows that within developing countries, older persons who live alone are relatively disadvantaged, as indicated by information on household amenities. The findings also show that women make up a large majority of older persons living in institutions and those living alone, due mainly to women's predominance among the

unmarried and among the oldest-old. Among unmarried older persons, men are often more likely than women to live alone or in an institutional setting. Institutional living tends to be most common in countries with high levels of income. A notable finding concerns "skipped generation" households, an arrangement in which older persons reside with grandchildren but without children. Over 10 per cent of older women live in such households in most sub-Saharan African and some Latin American and Caribbean countries; over one quarter do so in some countries in Africa. Skipped-generation households are also becoming more common in some African countries, probably due to the spread of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

H. Population and development

31. *The Impact of AIDS*[5] documents the demographic, social and economic consequences of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in developing countries, especially sub-Saharan Africa. Since the onset of the pandemic in the early 1980s, the HIV/AIDS epidemic is having and will continue to have an impact not only on the demography of the affected countries (mortality, fertility, age structure and population growth rates), but also on their social and economic development. HIV/AIDS is found to have a heavy impact on households, which are the first units affected by the disease. The death of the breadwinner often leads to the impoverishment of the household. Children are being taken out of school to care for ill parents or to supplement/provide household income. HIV/AIDS has led to an explosion in the number of orphans in hard-hit countries, as parents die from the disease. The study finds that it is common for relatives to take these orphans into their own homes, but the rapid rise in the number of orphans is threatening to overwhelm the traditional support system of the extended family. Many of the households fostering orphans are themselves poor, and taking in orphaned children represents a significant burden. The HIV/AIDS epidemic is also having a sizeable impact on the labour force, and on costs and productivity of business firms in the areas with high HIV prevalence. HIV/AIDS is also shown to impact agriculture in the most affected countries, increasing food insecurity. With respect to the health sector, the increased numbers of persons seeking medical services and the high cost of health care for AIDS patients are crippling the already inadequate health systems of the most affected countries. In the education sector, the disease is depleting the pool of qualified teachers. Overall, the impact of HIV/AIDS on socio-economic development is likely to intensify in the near future in the most affected countries. The study has been issued as a working paper and will appear as a sales publication in 2004.

32. Work is ongoing on the fourth version of the database on Population, Resources, Environment and Development. The new version, PRED Bank 2004, will include selected indicators from the *2002 Revision* of the United Nations world population estimates and projections and the 2003 edition of *National Population Policies*, both prepared by the Population Division, as well as economic, social and environmental indicators from the United Nations and other international organizations. PRED Bank 2004 will also include new variables such as literacy of young adults and revised school enrolment indicators and improvements to the user interface. Work on PRED Bank 2004 is expected to be completed in the first half of 2004, and to be available in the second half of the year.

I. Monitoring, coordination and dissemination of population information

1. Monitoring of population trends and policies

33. During 2003, the Population Division prepared the second quinquennial review and appraisal of the progress made in achieving the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. The report[7] was prepared for the thirty-seventh session of the Commission on Population and Development, to be convened in 2004, 10 years since the adoption of the Programme of Action. The report reviews changes during the past decade and projections for the next decade in the areas of population levels and trends and population growth, age-sex structure and spatial distribution. It also reviews progress made in implementing the Programme of Action in areas related to reproductive rights and reproductive health, health and mortality, international migration and population programmes.

2. Population web sites

(a) Population Division web site (www.unpopulation.org)

34. During 2003, the Population Division continued to update and expand its web site. The web site, among other things, provides information related to recently issued Population Division research publications. All or selected parts of publications appear, as well as highlights, key findings, proceedings of meetings and wall charts. New items appearing on the Population Division web site include reports on world population projections, HIV/AIDS, international migration, population, education and reproductive behaviour, and population policies. The site also contains documents of the Commission on Population and Development.

(b) Population Information Network (www.un.org/popin)

35. The activities related to the Population Information Network (POPIN) are integrated into the technical cooperation programme of the Population Division. POPIN provides a portal to the wealth of population information and data available throughout the United Nations system. Maintenance and further development are undertaken on a continuing basis, to ensure that broken links are promptly repaired and that new online population resources offered by the United Nations and the specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations system are reflected in the POPIN web site as soon as they go online. Analysis of the traffic to the POPIN web site shows that POPIN is a major channel for the dissemination of the population information generated by the United Nations, with an annual number of visits in excess of half a million.

J. Technical cooperation

36. The Population Division has continued to implement a programme of technical assistance to build capacity among population research centres in developing countries in the effective use of new technologies of information and communication, particularly the Internet, for population research. As part of the programme, the Division cooperated with the Centre for Population and

Development (CEPED), Paris, to organize a training workshop on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization documentation management software package CDS/ISIS for librarians and information technology specialists from francophone population research centres in West Africa. The workshop was hosted by the Demographic Research Unit of the University of Lomé. As a result of the workshop, the catalogues of four major African population documentation centres (IFORD in Cameroon, ENSEA in Côte d'Ivoire, UERD in Burkina Faso and URD in Togo), which together contain virtually all the existing population and development literature on that part of the world, are now accessible for interactive consultation on the Internet.

37. The Lomé workshop was the third in a series of workshops organized by the Population Division in the framework of the DemoNetA, an Internet-based network of population research and training centres in six francophone countries in Africa. The Division maintains the web site of DEMONETA (http://demoneta.org) as well as the web site of DemoNetAsia (http://demonetasia.org), a network formed by eight Asian population institutions. The DemoNetAsia web site contains a comprehensive portal to high-quality online resources relevant to population research in Asia and globally. A third web site, Redeluso (http://redeluso.org), aims to provide links to online population resources relevant to the world's eight Portuguese-speaking countries.

38. The Division's technical cooperation programme continued to draw on the Division's analytical activities, such as technical meetings and major technical publications, in order to enhance the potential of those activities for capacity-building in developing countries. Thus, in connection with the Workshop on HIV/AIDS and Adult Mortality in Developing Countries (see also paras. 8 and 15), the Division, under the auspices of the Development Account, organized a training programme on the demographic impact of HIV/AIDS in Africa for 22 demographers, statisticians and public health specialists from 16 sub-Saharan countries. The training programme complemented the workshop with round-table sessions on national experiences as well as Internet-based preparatory resources and follow-up activities (http://membres.lycos.fr/aidsimpact).

39. Other examples of such synergies between analytical and technical cooperation activities include the creation of an automatic e-mail announcements service alerting subscribers of the release of new Population Division publications. Launched in early 2003, the service had over 1,000 subscribers by the end of the year, including subscribers from over 70 developing countries. The production and distribution to developing countries of *MORTPAK for Windows*, the Population Division's software package for demographic estimation, was also handled by the technical cooperation programme. Information on Population Division activities and outputs of particular relevance to developing countries is also regularly fed into the mailing lists of DemoNetAsia and DemoNetA, so as to better reach those constituencies.

40. Also under the auspices of the Development Account, the Population Division, in cooperation with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, convened an international panel of eminent specialists to develop a research training programme on population ageing in developing countries (Bangkok, January 2003). The panel prepared a blueprint for a multistage programme that would be of use for both future activities of the United Nations and training institutions.

41. The Population Division also continued to reach out to the academic community, in particular, advanced population students and young researchers from developing countries. In that context, at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America (Minneapolis, United States, May 2003), the Division organized a briefing for about 100 specially invited students (representing over 60 countries) in attendance at the meeting. The briefing covered the various aspects of the work of the Division and answered many of the participants' questions regarding collaboration and employment opportunities.

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/57/6/Rev.1).

[2] A/56/6 (Sect. 9).

[3] ESA/P/WP.185. Preliminary version of the report issued by the United Nations Statistics Division on 2 September 2003. Also available online at www.un.org/esa/population/unpop.htm.

[4] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.XIII.8.

[5] A/58/98.

[6] E/CN.9/2004/3.

[7] IFORD = Institut de Formation et de Recherches Démographiques.

ENSEA = Ecole Nationale Supérieure de l'Électronique et de ses Applications.

UERD = Unité d'Enseignement et de Recherche en Démographie.

URD = Unité de Recherche Démographique.

Annex

Publications, expert group meetings and other materials prepared or organized by the Population Division, 2003

Expert group meetings

Technical Working Group on Long-Range Population Projections, 30 June 2003, New York.

Workshop on Adult Mortality and HIV/AIDS in Developing Countries, 8-13 September 2003, New York.

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